

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

August 5, 2014

Modifications to the "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Youth/Senior Recreation, Beaches/Wildlife Protection Measure"

Relates to Item 57-B

As currently proposed, the "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Youth/Senior Recreation, Beaches/Wildlife Protection Measure" would ensure continued grant funds to County of Los Angeles (County), cities and non-profit organizations for the creation, renovation and maintenance of park and recreational assets throughout the County.

Historically, voters have supported measures to increase green and recreational space, and the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District has transparently and professionally allocated over a billion dollars of funds for this intended purpose.

As the Board of Supervisors (Board) now contemplates asking the voters to consider a 30-year continuation of this funding program, the Board must ensure that the formula for the distribution of these funds not only reflects the evolving needs of the communities it serves, but also provides enough flexibility for future members of the Board to direct resources appropriately.

Firstly, a substantial adequate allocation should be invested in underserved communities. The County's General Plan Update proposes a goal of 4 acres of park land for every 1,000 residents. However, many communities throughout the County do not yet meet this goal. Disparities in park distribution are particularly evident in areas

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MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

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with low income and racial/ethnic populations. Higher park acreage within a community is associated with increased participation in physical activity and more positive health outcomes for surrounding residents. Any additional funding measure must steadfastly dedicate resources to addressing this significant public health disparity.

Secondly, this Board as presently comprised should not tie a future Board to a "Divide by 5" formula that forces the funds to be spent in a manner that does not take into consideration deferred maintenance needs, changing demographics and other factors. While the 1996 measure provided the Board with direction to allocate funds equally by District solely for the distribution of competitive grants, neither the 1992 nor the 1996 measures generally directed the Board to implement a "Divide by 5" methodology. This current Board should provide future Boards with the same flexibility and authority.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Direct County Counsel to make the following revisions to Sections 5 and 6 of the proposed "Safe Neighborhood Parks, Youth/Senior Recreation, Beaches/Wildlife Protection Measure" Resolution:

**Section 5. EXPENDITURE PLAN**

The County has serious unmet needs for park, recreation, youth and senior facilities, and for positive recreational alternatives for at-risk youth to assist in gang prevention and intervention efforts, and contains irreplaceable park, recreation, beach, wildlife and natural open space land.

The Board will allocate proceeds of the Special Tax to improve, acquire and develop park and recreation facilities in neighborhoods throughout the County as follows:

(a) Twenty percent (20%) of the proceeds shall be allocated to cities and unincorporated areas within the County on a per parcel basis.

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(1) Each city in the County will be allocated funds from the per parcel grant category based on each city's percentage of the total number of parcels in the County. The purpose of these funds is to ensure that each community throughout the County will benefit from park and recreation facilities and park safety improvements. The governing bodies of each city will allocate these funds pursuant to the provisions of this resolution and in furtherance of its purposes.

(2) The unincorporated areas of the County will be allocated funds from the per parcel grant category based on the unincorporated area's percentage of the total number of parcels in the County. The Board will allocate these funds pursuant to the provisions of this resolution and in furtherance of its purposes.

(b) Fifteen percent (15%) of the proceeds shall be allocated to the County for parks, beaches and clean water/park projects. These funds shall be used for the acquisition, development, improvement, rehabilitation or restoration of real property for parks and park safety, senior recreation facilities, beaches, recreation, community or cultural facilities, trails, wildlife habitat or Natural Lands.

(c) Twenty percent (20%) ~~Thirty percent (30%)~~ of the proceeds shall be allocated to the County for regional projects and for open space, foothill, mountain, trail, river, wetland and stream projects.

(d) Twenty percent (20%) ~~Ten percent (10%)~~ of the proceeds shall be allocated to the County for projects that increase open space and recreational opportunities in underserved communities.

(e) Five percent (5%) shall be available as grants on a competitive basis to Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations. These funds are designed to meet the wide and varied park, Natural Lands and recreation-related needs in all regions of the County by making funds available through grants to Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations on a competitive basis. These funds will be available on a regular basis in accordance with criteria and program guidelines established by the

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Board. Funds will be available for purposes to be defined by the Board, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Trails: to acquire and develop land for walking, hiking, horse, bicycle and handicapped access trails, for trails that provide vital recreation opportunities in recreation-poor urban communities, improve and develop river trails, connect river, urban and mountain areas, National Forests, State Parks, canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County, and for improvements to and development of public access.

(2) Senior Citizen/Youth Facilities: to acquire, develop, improve and restore senior citizen/youth recreation facilities that serve many communities in all regions of the County.

(3) Urban Tree Planting: to plant trees in public places for urban beautification projects, particularly in heavily urbanized, tree-poor areas of the County.

(4) Graffiti Prevention: to improve and to increase the safety of parks, recreation facilities, and community open space areas by removing and preventing graffiti on public facilities throughout the County.

(5) Rivers and Streams: to develop compatible recreational opportunities and public access, and to improve and restore Natural Lands for wildlife enhancement along rivers and streams and their tributaries throughout the County.

(6) Natural Lands Restoration: to acquire and/or restore Natural Lands throughout the County, including coastal sage scrub, desert, coastal dunes, coastal prairies, chaparral, vernal pools, oak woodlands, forests and native grasslands habitat, for the purposes of protecting and restoring critical natural resources of the County.

(f) Fifteen percent (15%) for Maintenance and Servicing. These funds shall be set aside and designated as the maintenance and servicing amount, and shall be used only to maintain and service capital outlay projects funded by the District

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pursuant to the 1992 Order and the 1996 Order, and by the Board pursuant to this resolution.

(g) Five percent (5%) for Administration. These funds shall be designated to fund the administrative functions of the unit within the Department established pursuant to Section 20(j).

Section 6. The funds made available under subsection (a) of Section 5 shall be awarded as grants to the respective cities and to the County upon review and approval by the Board of application materials demonstrating the entitlement to such funds, including but not limited to authorizing actions by the governing body of the applicant. Governing bodies of the cities and the County may assign the right to apply for funds under subsection (a) of Section 5 to other eligible applicants. The funds identified in subsections (c) and (d) of Section 5 may be awarded by the County to Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations for eligible projects at the sole discretion of the Board. ~~The funds identified in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e) of Section 5 shall be awarded at the sole discretion of the Board in accordance with the provisions for the expenditure of funds allocated for competitive grants pursuant to subsections (a)(2) and (a)(3) of Section 3 of the 1996 Order, as described in Section 24(b) of the 1996 Order.~~

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